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**REMARKS**

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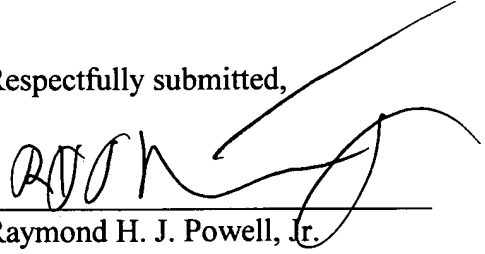
Claims 1-18 are pending in the Application as a result of the instant Amendment. It is respectfully submitted that the instant Amendment does not introduce new matter into the application.

Authority to charge the requisite excess claim fee to our Deposit Account No. 16-2372 is addressed in the Amendment Transmittal Letter.

It is respectfully submitted that the Preliminary Amendment places the above-identified application in even better condition for initial examination. In light of the amendments and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Raymond H. J. Powell, Jr.  
Reg. No. 34,231

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Date: November 14, 2000

Attorney Docket No.: RamiX-002US